CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH VOL. LXVIII, ISSUE 55 | JANUARY 31, 2017

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH, LIBRARY ARCHIVES

D49er

"... WE OPPOSE THE DIVISIVENESS OF THE RECENT EXECUTIVE ORDER, AND WE STAND WITH STATE AND NATIONAL OFFICIALS IN REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT RECONSIDER THIS POLICY."

— **Timothy P. White** - Chancellor, California State University | **David Lopez** - President, California State Student Association | **Christine Miller** - Chair, Academic Senate of the California State University | **Jeffrey D. Armstrong** - President, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo | **Erika D. Beck** - President, CSU Channel Islands | **Joseph I. Castro** - President, Fresno State University | **Soraya M. Coley** - President, Cal Poly Pomona | **Jane Close Conoley** - President, CSU Long Beach | **William A. Covino** - President, Cal State Los Angeles | **Thomas A. Cropper** - President, CSU Maritime Academy | **Mildred García** - President, CSU Fullerton | **Willie J. Hagan** - President, CSU Dominguez Hills | **Dianne F. Harrison** - President, CSU Northridge | **Karen S. Haynes** - President, CSU San Marcos | **Elliot Hirshman** - President, San Diego State University | **Gayle E. Hutchinson** - President, CSU Chico | **Ellen N. Junn** - President, CSU Stanislaus | **Horace Mitchell** - President, CSU Bakersfield | **Tomás D. Morales** - President, CSU San Bernardino | **Leroy M. Morishita** - President, CSU East Bay | **Robert S. Nelsen** - President, Sacramento State University | **Eduardo M. Ochoa** - President, CSU Monterey Bay | **Mary A. Papazian** - President, San José State University | **Lisa A. Rossbacher** - President, Humboldt State University | **Judy K. Sakaki** - President, Sonoma State University | **Leslie E. Wong** - President, San Francisco State University

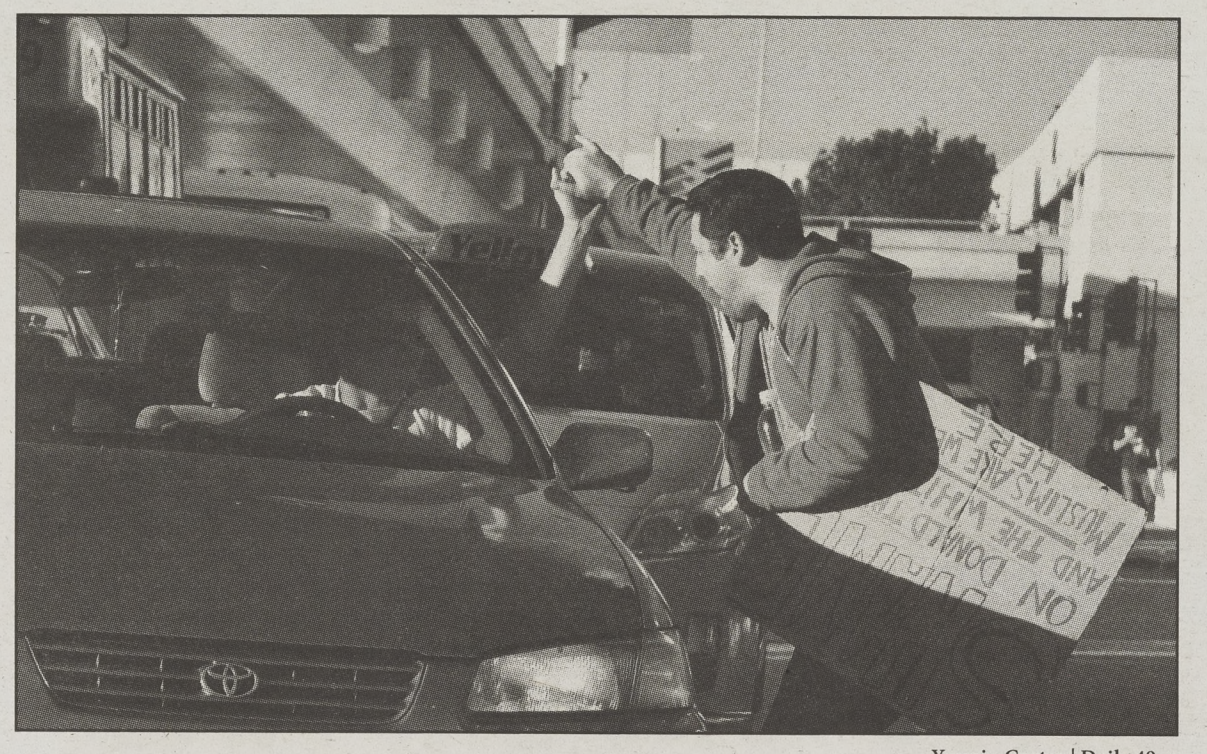
To read more about the statement issued by the CSU system, **see page 2**.

POLITICS

Week one in Trump's presidency

With just one week behind him, here are a few executive actions and memorandums that President Trump has signed so far.

By Sol Mendez
Staff Writer



Yasmin Cortez | Daily 49er

A protester at LAX high-fives a passing car at the airport during the march on Jan. 29.

Affordable Care Act repeal

The Affordable Care Act , which was put into effect in 2013 and currently cover over 20 million Americans, is now in the early stages of being repealed.

The executive order, which was signed on the first day of Trump's presidency, would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the heads of other departments to "waive, defer, grant exemptions from or delay implementation of any provision or requirement," according to official signed document. While it is the process of being repealed, it was reported by the Washington Post that Trump promised a replacement that would include "insurance for everybody."

U.S. Border security

An existing fence that has served as a separation point between the U.S. and Mexico for decades is now expected to get a maximum renovation.

The executive action, which was one of the first signed orders, would include:

- The building of a new wall
- Hiring of 5,000 new border patrol officers, an end to the catch and release system (which allows immigrants to stay in the U.S while waiting for a hearing with an immigration judge)
- Allow local law enforcement to act as immigration officers
- Hiring of 10,000 new immigration officers
- Create and operate detention facilities near the border.

"Mexico City Policy"

The memorandum itself would ban the use of U.S. taxpayer dollars from funding organizations and programs that would support and/or participate in the "management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization." This order would limit the access to legal abortion clinics that woman may need.

The policy, which was coined after Mexico's own anti-abortion policy, and first put into effect by the Reagan administration, has a history of coming in and out of office depending on the active White House party. It has now once again come into effect with Trump's presidency.

Defunding sanctuary cities

Sanctuary states and cities, which are known to shield undocumented immigrants from deportation, would be subjected to defunding by the new administration. Press secretary Sean Spice stated that the new order would, "strip federal grant money from the sanctuary states and cities that harbor illegal immigrants."

The order would restrict "sanctuary cities" from asking for federal grants, but would not necessarily be able to cut off all federal funding.

Reevaluating visa and refugee programs

Probably one of the more prominent orders signed by President Trump is the reevaluation of the visa and refugee program. Some of the changes to these programs would prohibit the entry of "immigrant and non-immigrants" from seven muslim majority countries. Some of the new effects would include;

Suspending of the the visa interview waiver program, (which allows certain people from renewing their visas without an in-person interview)

Cut the number of refugees allowed into the United States from 110,000 to 50,000

For 120 days, suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, which identifies and processes refugees for resettlement in the United States.

Some of the orders have already been put into immediate effect and resulted in the detention of several visa holders who were returning to the U.S from the listed territories.

Keystone and Dakota Access Pipeline

The issue of the oil pipelines, which were each respectively halted in 2015 and 2016 by the Obama administration in will now be up for negotiations once again after signing the executive order for the revival of the building project .

The Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines, which would carry Canadian oil sands crude from Canada to Texas, had as many as 800 camping protesters, according to the LA Times. The pipeline would garner the U.S. government 25 percent of the pipeline's profits and the project would be negotiated with terms of the administration.

Expediting infrastructure projects

The action would speed up the process of the construction of infrastructures and would also expedite the review from environmental associations who on average, take long periods of

see **PRESIDENT**, page 3

CSU SYSTEM

CSU condemns executive orders

Presidents sign on to opposition to Trump's immigration orders.

By Lola Olvera
Staff Writer

In an email to students, faculty and staff, California State University Chancellor Timothy White and the Presidents of CSU campuses stated their opposition to President Donald Trump's executive orders on immigration.

"We are deeply troubled by President Trump's recent executive order that stands in stark contrast to the fundamental tenets of the California State University," the statement said. "We believe in the free exchange of ideas globally, central to which is our ability to welcome and interact with those from around the world."

The statement goes on to ask that the president reconsider his policy that prevents citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States. The ban led to people being detained at airports in the U.S. and abroad, with some sent back to their home countries.

"You sort of feel identified or sympathy to what they are going through, like thinking it could happen to me since I am an international student with a visa," said Martin Oliva, an Aerospace Engineering student from Mexico. "It could happen any time if [Trump] decides to and you feel a little powerless."

Protests against the ban erupted at airports across the country, including one at Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday.

CAMPUS EVENT

'Reclaiming Democracy' series to start Tuesday

CLA faculty try to provide dialogue through teach-ins.

By Valerie Osier
News Editor

In response to the recent presidential election, faculty from the College of Liberal Arts are presenting their "Reclaiming Democracy" teach-in series, hoping to provide a space for students to educate and express themselves on current political issues.

Starting Tuesday and continuing monthly through April, the teach-ins will feature ten-minute talks by three speakers from the College of Liberal Arts before leaders facilitate discussion among groups of students on the Speaker's Platform.

"The purpose of the teach-ins ... is to create a dialogue on issues of concern to people on campus," said Chris Burnett, a professor in the Journalism Department, who helped organize the March teach-in on "Mass Media and Democracy."

"There was a lot of concern about the result of last November's election, but these teach-ins are designed to transcend the election results and create an atmosphere of student involvement in the political process," Burnett said. "The first step, however, is to inform students on the key issues that will be debated over the next four years and give students avenues for involvement."

To start, Tuesday's session is "Overcoming Exclusion, Discrimination and Oppression," hosted by professor of anthropology Ron Loewe. This session will touch on reproductive rights, voting rights, racism, immigration, Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and have speakers on each topic.

Jeff Blutinger, a professor of Jewish Studies, will lead the discussion on Anti-Semitism. He agrees that the teach-ins are both " ... an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to learn about these issues and [a way] to express how they feel about what is happening … [this will give them] either tools to understand what's happening or to resist it."

Blutinger cites suppression of voting rights, restricted access to reproductive rights and "an explosion of prejudice towards Jews and Muslims" as just a few of the problems that have been exacerbated by November's election.

"These issues are important because they directly affect the lives of students and their family members," Blutinger said.

Also speaking on Tuesday will be Stewart Chang of the Asian & Asian American Studies department, who will speak on racism and immigration; Amanda Trefethen of the Philosophy department, who will speak on reproductive and voting rights; and Yousef Baker of the International Studies department, who will speak on Islamophobia.

Future teach-ins will focus on the history and ideologies of fascism, freedom of speech and press and how communities can organize, activate and resist.

Each teach-in will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Speaker's Platform in front of the bookstore. The event is open to everyone in the community, regardless of their background or political beliefs.

"We want everyone involved in these events," says Burnett. "Whether they voted for Trump, Clinton or one of the other candidates. No one should feel uncomfortable attending."

ADMINISTRATION

CSULB media director moves to Chancellor's office

Q & A with Michael Uhlenkamp.

By Valerie Osier
News Editor

Michael Uhlenkamp has represented Cal State Long Beach hundreds of times with the press during his two-year stint as the Executive Director of Media and Digital News at CSULB. He is now leaving CSULB to represent the California State University system as the Interim Senior Director of Public Affairs at the Chancellor's office in Long Beach.

How did you get started at CSULB?

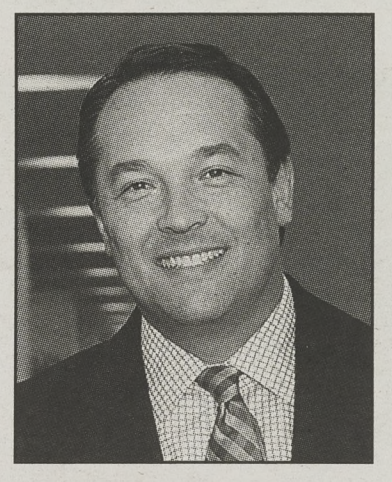
"I was approached by the assistant vice president for legislative and external relations, Terri Carbaugh. We had worked on some projects together in her previous role when I was at the Chancellor's Office and I became aware of the opportunity at Long Beach. Having received my Master of Business Administration from the campus, I had great feelings about the campus, so when I became aware of the opportunity, we engaged and I was lucky enough to be chosen as the best candidate for that position, and I loved my 23 months there."

How did you get into public relations?

"Originally, I wanted to work in sports, I went to USC as an undergrad, so I started as an intern in the sports information department which led to other opportunities in public relations for sports … My first full-time job was as a PR assistant for the [Los Angeles] Lakers ... I like to write, I like to talk to people, build relationships. That's all applicable to PR, so I stayed in the field and then, lo and behold, I ended up in higher education. And so I've been in higher ed for the last seven years."

What's your biggest accomplishment at CSULB?

"During my time there, we revamped the 'CSULB newsroom' [a public relations website] … It's a really robust site for both media and for people that are interested with what's going on in the campus. We had roughly 100k unique visitors in the 11 months after we had launched, so that's one of the things that I'm most proud of. And also, to be able to foster a culture of communication on campus. Like any campus, there's a lot of things that are going on at any given time. There's good things, there's bad things. To keep people who are interested, informed is something that I'm proud of. Just being a part of the campus community, I already miss it right now."



MICHAEL UHLENKAMP
FORMER CSULB MEDIA DIRECTOR

What is your new position and what will you be doing at the Chancellor's Office?

"I'm now heading up the Public Affairs department, so my official title is Interim Senior Director of Public Affairs. We serve as the media relations contacts for both the local, state and national level. We also serve as the liaison for all of the campuses, whereas my role at Long Beach was to really focus on Long Beach. Now, it's to help the campuses to be able to share their stories and put those stories together."

You worked at the Chancellor's office before coming to CSULB, what made you leave and what is bringing you back?

"I wanted to spend time on a campus, first and foremost, and while there are a bunch of great campuses throughout the CSU, I do live in Long Beach, but I also had a great affinity for Cal State Long Beach. I knew that there was a lot of interesting and exciting things going on, so to be able to tell those stories was a really exciting experience for me. It was also to be part of the community ... It's a vibrant, vibrant community. And to be able to be an even closer part of that was something that was really exciting and that I will absolutely miss. In terms of wanting to leave, it was simply the fact that I had a familiarity with the Chancellor's Office.n. There's a lot of really exciting things that are going on with respect to public higher education and to be able to serve as an advocate and to help achieve some of those goals is something exciting to me."

What do you hope to accomplish at the Chancellor's Office?

"I want to be able to be an advocate for the system. We have a lot of interesting things going on, I think there has been a change in the last couple of years to highlight the research that's been going on. Research typically was the purview of the University of California system, but one thing I learned at CSULB is there's so much undergraduate research. There are so many brilliant minds that are on the campuses that are really doing the work. They're making discoveries that we need to be sharing. To be able to do that at a statewide level is really exciting. We still have funding issues that we've had for decades now, so to be able to help to potentially make sure that higher education remains affordable and that it's accessible. "

What will you miss the most about working here?

"I love the campus and the vibrancy of being on campus. One of the things we do at the Chancellor's office: we do policy, at the campus we see it actually happen … You get to see all the changes, whether it's a new building coming in or programs starting, the number of students graduating, or just being exposed to what you're trying to accomplish in the mission of helping students get a great degree that's going to change their lives. You see that every single day. Commencement is the most amazing thing, so I will miss all that as well. I'll also miss the coffee shops."

PRESIDENT

continued from page 2

time to review the building of projects and how certain buildings and structures could cause harm to the surrounding environment.

President Trump signed the action while stating that infrastructure projects in the U.S. "have been routinely and excessively delayed by agency processes and procedures."

Strengthening the military

The memorandum states that appointed secretary of defense James Mattis must assess and review the "readiness" of the U.S military within the next 30 days. The U.S., which already holds the biggest military budget in the world at $597 billion is expected to present fiscal budget for 2018 within the next 30 days.

Five-year lobbying ban

The order permanently prohibits past officials from lobbying for any foreign government or political party. It bars, "every executive appointee in every executive agency" from "lobbying activities with respect to that agency". It also goes on to explain that the same rule would be in effect for 5 years after the official is no longer involved with their position.

Defeat ISIS

The memorandum, which also appoints secretary of defense James Mattis, expects Mattis to come up with a plan to rid of ISIS. The plan must include a "comprehensive strategy for defeating ISIS, change to the rules of engagement, and come up with strategies to de-legitimize "radical Islamist ideology."

According to the official White House memorandum document, the plan would also include to cut off ISIS' financial support and identification of new partners.

Federal job freeze

The order, which is meant to freeze the hiring of federal workers in an attempt to cut government payrolls. The memorandum took effect at noon on January 22.

The freeze exempts military personnel but stops other offices from creating positions that are "otherwise unnecessary" according to Press Secretary Sean Spicer.

Spicer also stated that the freeze, "… prevents filling vacant positions and creating new positions except when necessary to meet national or public security responsibilities."

Widen NSC audience

The National Security Council, which operates national security and foreign policy matters, would now need to open its meetings to the presidential administration staff. Some, of which would include; chief of staff Reince Priebus and White House chief strategist Steve Bannon. Political officials, who usually don't attend will now be able to sit in and be able to attend any NSC meeting that they choose.

Information from Politico, CNN, Washington Post and The White House official page.

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OUR VIEW

No tears for New Year's resolutions

The D49er staff assess' their new year's resolution.

Daily 49er staff

After a rough and tumble year in 2016, it was natural to have high hopes for 2017 as people set their resolutions and stole a kiss on New Year's Eve.

Now that we can put a period on week one of classes, and the first month of the year, it's time to evaluate whether our optimism matches our ambition.

Here is an update on the new year's resolution status of the Daily 49er editorial staff:

Jason Enns, Arts & Life Editor

After failing miserably to balance both work and school last semester, I vowed to myself to learn from my mistakes. I am going to go to all my classes, stay organized, be proactive and just overall crush it at life. It's a perfect set-up for failure. Already, I let myself get distracted by work, which caused me to be late to both classes Monday. My hope is that this is merely an early hiccup and the rest of the year will go swimmingly, but that would be a huge lie. If I'm being honest, I don't even know what I was wanting to accomplish in 2016. I probably had the same drive and hopes for myself last year, just to settle for survival by June.

Jade Inglada, Assistant Design Editor

I know it's already going to be a month since 2017 started, but I honestly can't remember if I made a resolution or not. Did I? I know I've done it before and managed to keep it up, but right now I'm drawing a blank. Whoops. Regardless if I did or not, I'll just keep maintaining my good habits: drinking more water, walking often, wearing all the cute lipsticks, making bad jokes, etc.

Courtesy of Creative Commons

New Year's Eve is a night full of fireworks, romance and setting unrealistic goals for yourself.

Hanna Suarez, Opinions Editor

Despite turning twenty-two this April and being in pretty bad shape, I was really determined to learn how to ollie this year. I've been skateboarding since I was about nine years old, so naturally I am confident in my ability to ride a board. I can cruise down the street whenever I like — though my endurance fails me usually (smoker's lungs). I even dropped fifty dollars on a new popsicle deck because all I had were cruiser boards that are really hard to ollie for beginners. I've been watching videos and trying to take better care of myself... but every time I even glance at my new board my knees buckle, my ankles grow weak and I throw in the towel. What can I say, fear is the ultimate obstacle — and I sure as hell can't afford any broken bones.

Valerie Osier, News Editor

I did make a New Year's Resolution to get more fit, but it didn't start until the start of spring semester. I knew this semester was going to be crazy so I decided to make it a little crazier by adding a 7 a.m. jogging class and a weight lifting class. I usually don't go through with anything unless a grade is attached to it. Also, I've never lifted weights before and my mile time is eternal, so we'll see how this goes.

Matt Simon, Sports Editor

I don't believe in New Year's Resolutions. What I do believe in is working in months, thinking in years and planning in decades. True success doesn't happen when the clock strikes midnight.

Lindsey Maeda, Design Editor

Forget the New Year's Resolutions, because it's all about 30-day challenges. Completing a 30-day challenge is more realistic and helps you gain momentum for the rest of your goals. Imagine checking off a personal goal each month. Sounds encouraging to me.

Miranda Andrade-Ceja, Managing Editor

I think I might have considered going the cliche-route and making my New Year's Resolution the Extremely Typical: "I'm going to go jogging every morning!" ...But unfortunately, I don't think I actually cared enough about jogging to commit to this.

My actual New Year's Resolution should have been: "spoon my dog to sleep every night." Because I'm good at that, I'm really good at that.

Micayla Vermeeren, Editor in Chief

I feel like I'm the embodiment of a tweet I saw a while back that said "New year, same me because I'm the b***h that never learns." Okay, I do like to think that, contrary to said tweet, I learn sometimes, but the start of a new year is usually not that time. I'm not one for New Year's resolutions – I think most resolutions are nothing more than desperate clutches at goals other people say we need to have. I completely understand the appeal of starting out a new calendar year with new habits, but let's be real – if you really wanted to change something, you wouldn't wait around for the stroke of a clock to do so. If you're one of the gung-ho resolution-ers and have unique, personal goals you've been able to stick to, I offer a cosmic gold star your way. If you're like me, though, cheers to not trying to force our goals into an arbitrary timeline and celebrating the first of the year like God intended: hungover, exhausted from a late night at work, making grossly healthy grocery shopping runs, or any combination thereof.

Jose De Castro, Photo Editor

My goal this year was to stop eating Skittles daily. Last year was a disaster for me as I ate them like they were drugs, technically they were my drugs. My friends saw this and told me to stop eating them and so I did. It was a good time to stop too since my best friends wedding was approaching. From the beginning of 2016 to November I was off Skittles. But after my best friends wedding in mid-November, I started binge eating Skittles and it was downhill from there. My friends noticed this and were disappointed, as they caught me eating bag after bag and even a 41 oz one. I realized that they cared about my health and that I had a huge problem. Alas 2017 is here and here I am committing my life to no Skittles at all.... starting in February.

TELEVISION

NBC's 'Today' makes way for Megyn Kelly

By Stephen Battaglio
Los Angeles Times

NBC is dropping the third hour of its morning show "Today" to make room for a new talk show with former Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly.

Staffers of the third-hour show, which is also known as "Today," were informed of the decision after Friday's program.

Two people familiar with the plans who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the situation publicly said Kelly's new show will debut in the fall and air in the 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. hour. If it airs at 10 a.m., the current fourth hour of "Today" with Hoda Kotb and Kathie Lee Griffin will move to 9 a.m.

There has been no decision of the title of Kelly's program and whether it will carry the "Today" brand name.

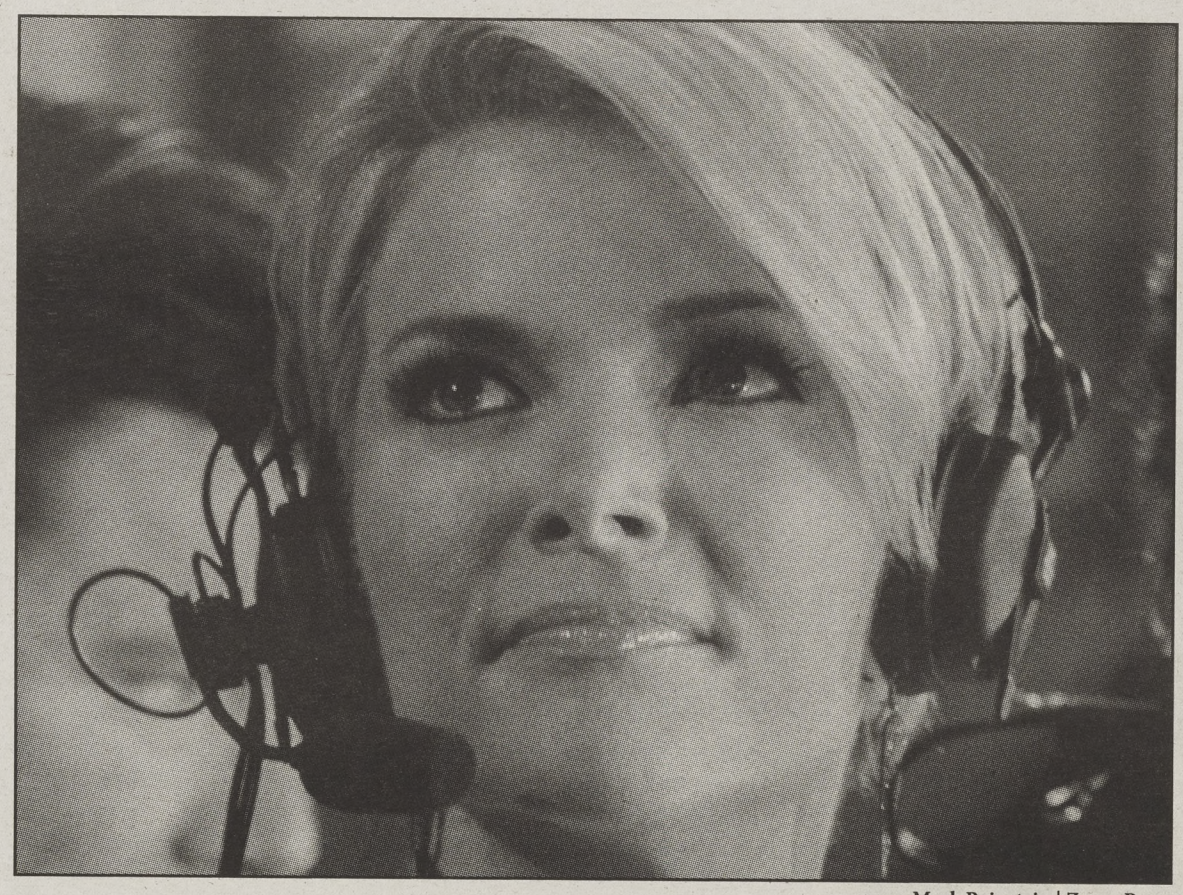
Al Roker, the weather anchor for "Today" from 7 to 9 a.m., and Tamron Hall, are the current co-anchors of the third hour. There is a desire among NBC News to keep Hall as part of the "Today" family but no plans have been finalized. Hall, the first African American woman to be a regular co-anchor on "Today," is also a daytime news anchor on MSNBC.

Kelly agreed to join NBC News in January, but is under contract to Fox News until July.

Kelly, 46, became a breakout TV news star after her tough questioning of Donald Trump during the first Republican presidential primary debate in 2015. Trump ridiculed Kelly in TV interviews and on social media in the months that followed. But his criticism only propelled her fame and likely motivated her to seek a wider platform than Fox News.

NBC launched the third hour of "Today" in 2000 at the height of the morning franchise's popularity. The hour averages around 3.5 million viewers, according to Nielsen.

The program became a part of the 2016 presidential campaign when former co-host Billy Bush was heard in a leaked 2005 video engaging in lewd, sexist conversation with Trump. Bush was suspended from the program and NBC bought out his contract. He was not replaced on "Today."



Mark Reinstein | Zuma Press

News anchor Megyn Kelly on July 21, 2016 during Donald Trump's speech to the RNC in Cleveland, Ohio.

FESTIVAL

Pop-up shop til you drop

4th Fridays provide a lucrative opportunity for local entrepreneurs.

By Carlos Villicana
Staff Writer

Courtesy of Facebook

Hundreds gathered at the Pike outlets on Friday to support local businesses.

The year's first 4th Friday's at the Pike took place from 5-10 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27, hosting a diverse array of local Long Beach artists and small businesses.

Food trucks, mobile boutiques, artists and designers were among the vendors that set up shop before the event began at sunset.

Heather Shipley of the Urban Hive Market, the organization that put together the event, estimated that between 500 to 1,000 residents of Long Beach came out to support the city's entrepreneurs. She mentioned that a "good percent of the vendors" had sold all they brought by the night's end.

For Shipley, a Long Beach native, this event was about exposing people to local business-owners and entrepreneurs. She said that a part of the motivation for putting it together was to help support people's ability to make a living by doing what they love.

Potential customers began to walk through in gradually increasing numbers; some were couples, some were friends and others were shoppers whose eyes were lured by the craftsmanship on display as they walked by tents.

Nostalgia developed as musical favorites from the 1980s by The Clash, Guns N' Roses and Michael Jackson were played over speakers, contrasting with the modern pop music being emanated from retailers such as Forever 21.

The night hoped to inspire a sense of community among Long Beach residents and provide a different shopping atmosphere, as customers and vendors were engaging in conversation with one another.

Stefano Enjem of BrewWings, a mobile business that sells chicken wings at various events across Los Angeles and Orange County, saw his customers wait in a packed line throughout the night.

Enjem said that when people give feedback, they often mention how happy they are to support small businesses. The 4th Friday's event served as an opportunity for people to be exposed to many alternatives to the stores usually found at shopping centers.

For a local entrepreneur like Enjem, who has a goal of opening a brick and mortar shop in Long Beach, an event like 4th Fridays can help make that a reality.

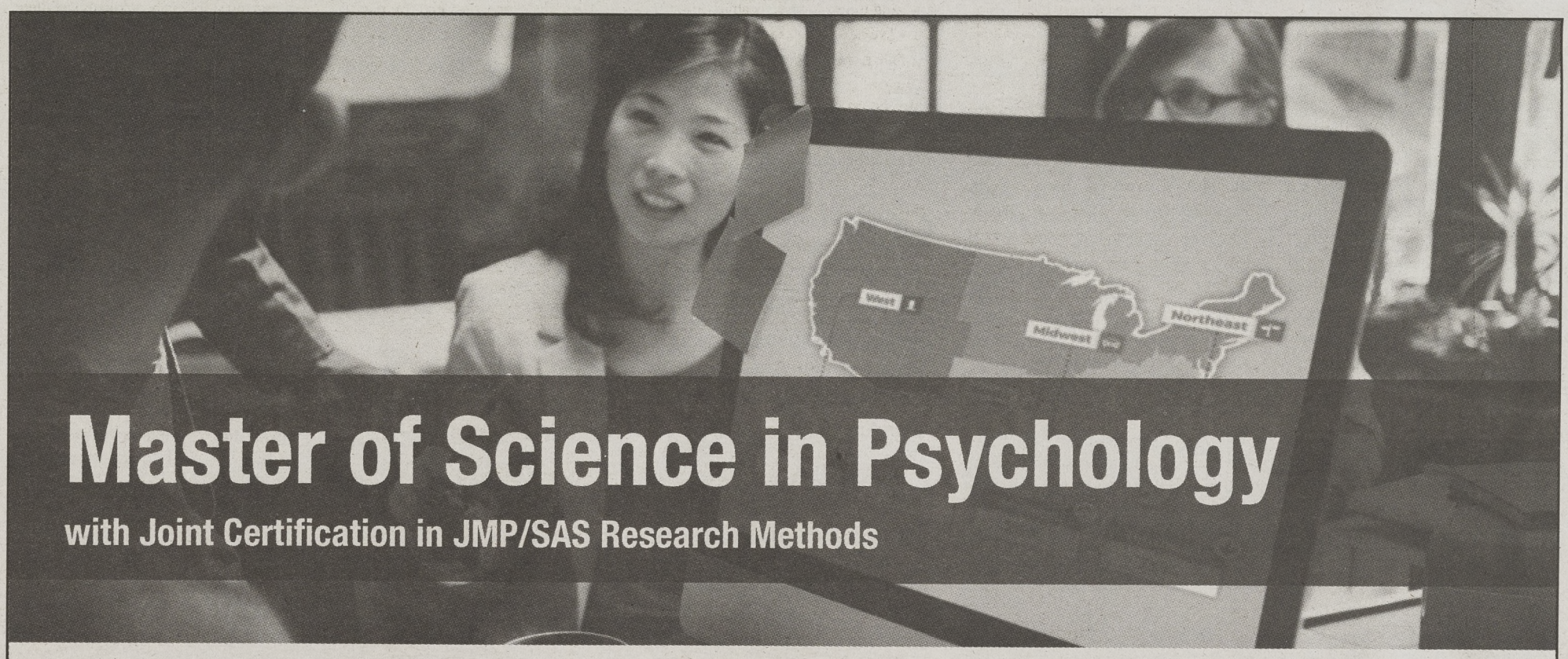
"We definitely encourage students to participate," said Shipley.

Shipley noted that students can apply to become vendors for future events as long as they obtain a seller's permit from the city of Long Beach.

An event like this could be an ideal location for Cal State Long Beach students to share their talents, as it provides an avenue for people to get their name out and use their abilities to make money, according to Shipley.

To become a vendor at a future 4th Friday's at the Pike, students can sign up on the Urban Hive Market's website.

The next 4th Fridays at the Pike will take place on Feb. 24.



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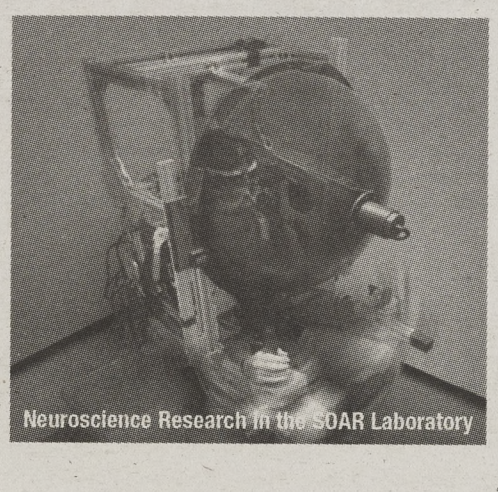
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'Bad religion:' weed, culture and the pope

Sunday school still doesn't cover sativa.

By Marilyn Isabel Ramirez
Contributing Writer

Images: stock.adobe.com

Graphic by Jade Inglada

When I tell people that I've never tried marijuana and haven't really had the desire to, their immediate conclusion is that I'm against any of its potential contributions, whether it be medically or economically.

I'm "straight edge;" I don't know what the difference is between a joint or a blunt, and I don't know why a bong gurgles. I just found out about Weedmaps last Saturday. In the three years that I've lived in Long Beach, at least one of my roommates has been a recreational smoker… and I grew to be okay with that.

Luckily for them, Measure MM and MA were both passed back in November. Measure MM lifts a ban on medical marijuana businesses while Measure MA designates higher taxes on medicinal marijuana.

Plus, because Prop 64 was passed, Measure MA can be used to approve how much the tax will be on recreational use. Access to marijuana in Long Beach is going to increase over the next few years.

The passing of these measures forced me to not only look at the reasons why I supported it, but why I wouldn't have three years before. Religion is a powerful influence; Catholicism denounces any reason for drug use, and I regret that its education could've allowed me to reach a conclusion on my own about a lot of things, even marijuana.

Instead of being shown a variety of arguments for and against recreational marijuana, the messages I were given all related back to how it would adversely affect my physical and mental state – my "temple" and my "spirit."

Research on how symptoms of Asperger's or depression or cancer can be alleviated by marijuana use baffles me – not because I can't believe it, but because being raised Catholic for 18 years imposed the question of morality when it came to the use of drugs of any variety. In this case, open mindedness was not an option.

There needs to be a change in the Church's interpretation on topics like the legalization of marijuana. We are constantly transforming our morals based on contemporary discoveries, leaving many constituents like myself questioning what's actually aligned with our faith.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, written by Pope John Paul II in 1992, there are clear references to the "use of drugs" as an infliction of "very grave damage on human health in life… They [recreational drugs] constitute direct co-operation in evil, since they encourage people to practices gravely contrary to the moral law."

Major religious leaders, including Pope Francis, stand by this. Back in 2014, Time magazine writer Elizabeth Dias reported that the Pope condemned the use of marijuana at the International Drug Enforcement Conference, as he claimed "the problem of drug use is not solved with drugs… Drug addiction is an evil, and with evil there can be no yielding or compromise."

> "I'm "straight edge;" I don't know what the difference is between a joint or a blunt, and I don't know why a bong gurgles."

The "evil" that he may be referring to are the fatal effects of cartel businesses in countries like Brazil and Mexico, which is a definite issue, but when looking at something like drug use, it's not just the accessibility that encourages dependency. It's the user's personal decision.

In grade school, my instructors ingrained the idea that there is only good and evil, nothing in between--and drugs are an ultimate evil. The end. What my instructors failed to teach is that there's a complexity within each person's spiritual beliefs, and the teachings of Catholicism leave very little room for interpretation or questioning.

Moving to Long Beach, a city that is bracing for a potential future of legalizing the recreational use of marijuana, blew my mind. Not only does the existence of dispensaries, apps, and doctor recommendation cards make the world of cannabis much more accessible, but the culture and attitudes of Long Beach inhabitants offer an abundance of insight to what the drug actually is and how it can be used.

A 2016 article by Roberto Herrera and Daniela Alvarez in the Daily 49er covered a panel on the legalization of marijuana titled "The Pot Perplex: Would Legal Marijuana Be Good or Bad for Southern California" to discuss its impact from multiple viewpoints.

Earlier this month, Courtney Thompkins of the LB Press Telegram explained the city's push for "an education outreach campaign that explains the health and safety risks of marijuana use."

Within my previous religious realm, the chance of this kind of news circulating would either be nonexistent or faced with heavy opposition.

The community that I've now found myself in has given me the chance to re-evaluate how culture and exposure has reconstructed my stance on marijuana. I no longer view its use as a detriment to anyone's soul, nor do I believe that its users have distanced themselves from God and are subject to extreme repentance.

Marijuana can be used for a plethora of reasons, and I can acknowledge and respect that.

Catholicism denied me the opportunity to formulate my own opinion on matters it considered taboo, which is why coming to Long Beach and being introduced to not only other students' interactions with marijuana, but how their own culture, whether it be through religious or ethnic ties, affected how they chose either to enjoy it or exclude it from their lives.

I've grown to recognize more or less the drug's effects, both positive and negative, through peers' experiences and media coverage.

I now believe it's important that religions like Catholicism develop and modernize its teachings to stop restricting its constituents from being so barred from developing opinions based off of more than just Scripture, and more on both Scripture and other cultural beliefs.

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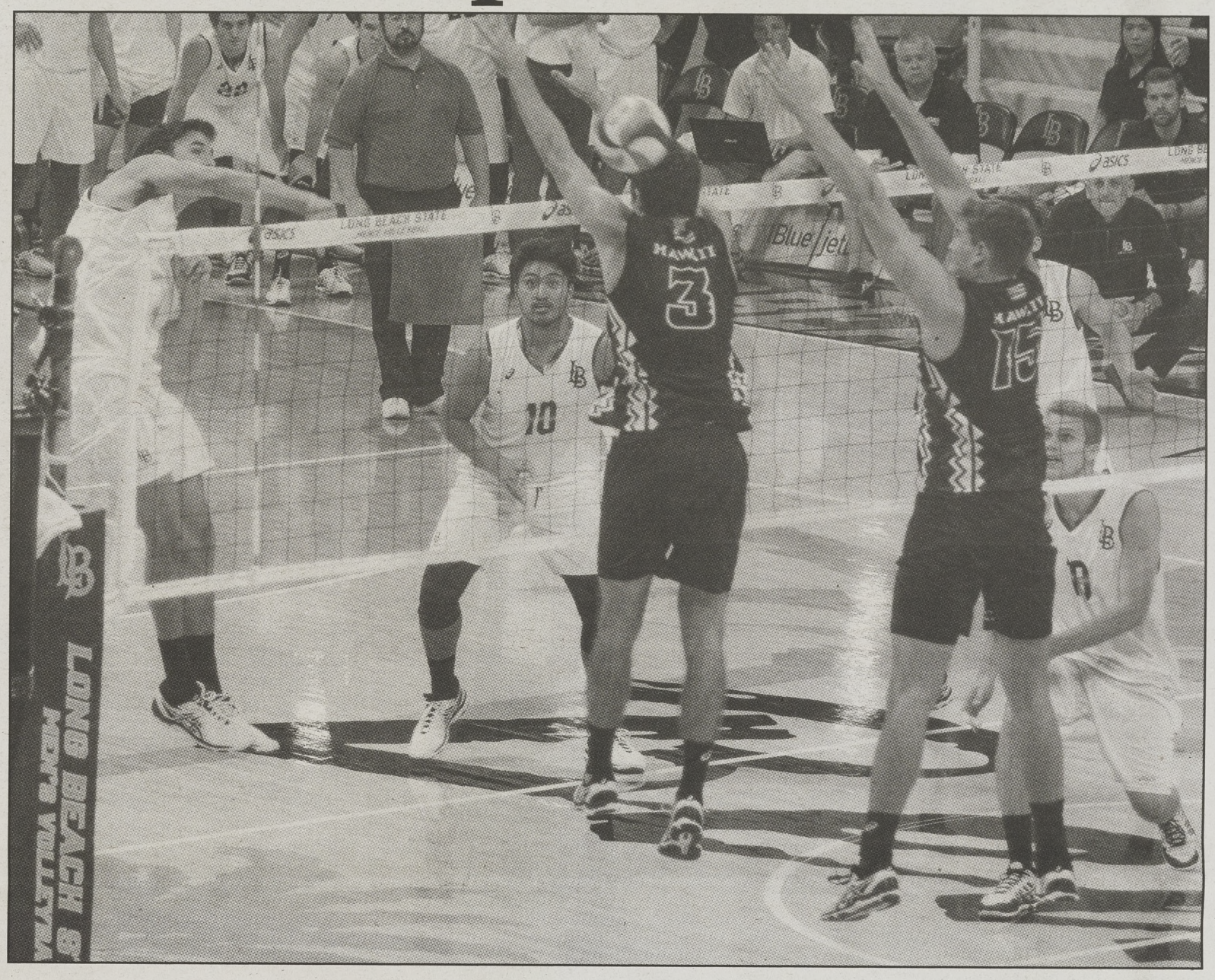
Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

SPORTS RECAP

49ers lose to top-ranked OSU

Men's volleyball loses in four-set while women's water polo does 1-2 over the weekend.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor



Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er

Long Beach State's TJ DeFalco (11) spikes the ball past Hawai'i outside hitter Brett Rosenmeier (3) at Friday's men's volleyball game.

After starting the season 7-1, the Long Beach State men's volleyball team rounded out its trip to Ohio with a match against No.1 Ohio State.

In a highly contested match, the 49ers (7-2) fell short to the top-ranked Buckeyes (9-0) 22-25, 26-24, 21-25, 24-26 Saturday in St. John's Arena.

Sophomore outside hitter TJ DeFalco and sophomore opposite Kyle Ensing led the way for the 49ers, combining for 32 kills in the match. Sophomore setter Josh Tuaniga connected with his hitters for 38 assists.

In the first set, OSU took an early 6-2 lead winning 25-22.

In a back-and-forth second set, the 49ers took the closely contested set 26-24 after DeFalco won the set with an ace.

In the next two sets, LBSU continued to fight OSU in third and fourth sets, but ultimately lost both sets.

LBSU will look to get back to its winning ways when it hosts Pepperdine Thursday and Stanford Saturday before starting a four-game road trip.

Women's Water Polo

Opening its season at the Speedo Cup in Berkeley Saturday, the No. 13 Long Beach State women's water polo team started with a 9-8 win against No. 17 San Jose State.

Trailing San Jose State 2-0 early in the game, sophomore attacker Tori Morrissey cut the deficit to one goal when she scored from the five meter area. LBSU's junior defender Alexandra Massier then tied the game at two with a perimeter goal.

Along with its first win, LBSU (1-2) welcomed back defender senior Christina Kotsia, who is back with the team after a two-year stint with the Greek National Team.

Kotsia didn't waste anytime making her presence known when she scored a goal to tie the game at three at the end of the first period.

After falling behind 4-3, Morrisey once again scored on a power play to tie the game at 4-4 after the second period.

The back-and-forth game continued in the third, but after goals from junior utility Raney Remme and sophomore defender Annabel Harman, LBSU took a 7-6 lead heading into the fourth and final period.

In the fourth period, the Spartans and 49ers were tied at seven and eight. The game ended in a 8-8 tie after regulation.

After two scoreless overtime periods, LBSU's Massier played the hero, scoring her second goal to give LBSU the 9-8 win.

In their last game of the Speedo Classic, the 49ers lost to No. 4 University of California, Berkeley 12-6.

On Sunday, the 49ers finished their road trip with a 19-5 loss to No. 1 Stanford.

Stay tuned for our preview of the water polo season in Wednesday's paper.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL PARTIAL 2017 SCHEDULE

DATE	MATCH	LOCATION	TIME
02/02	Pepperdine	Walter Pyramid	7 p.m.
02/04	Stanford	Walter Pyramid	2 p.m.
02/10	UC Irvine	Irvine	7 p.m.
02/11	UC San Diego	San Diego	7 p.m.
02/15	UC Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	7 p.m.
02/18	UCLA	Los Angeles	7 p.m.
02/22	Cal Baptist	Walter Pyramid	7 p.m.
02/24	USC	Walter Pyramid	7 p.m.
03/01	UC Irvine	Walter Pyramid	7 p.m.

D49er is looking for cartoonists

Send us a sketch @

eicd49er@gmail.com

COMMENTARY

LAG no problem for 49ers

LBSU is dealing with loss of Gabe Levin just fine during the 49ers' 3-game winning streak.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor

When junior forward Gabe Levin went down with a season-ending knee injury on New Year's Eve things appeared to get worse for the Long Beach State men's basketball team.

It piled on to the 49ers' early season woes where the team, facing one of the toughest schedules in the country, kept losing to some of the top-ranked teams in the nation and badly.

But after starting Big West play 1-3, something changed for LBSU as they faced what head coach Dan Monson calls "life after Gabe"(LAG) time.

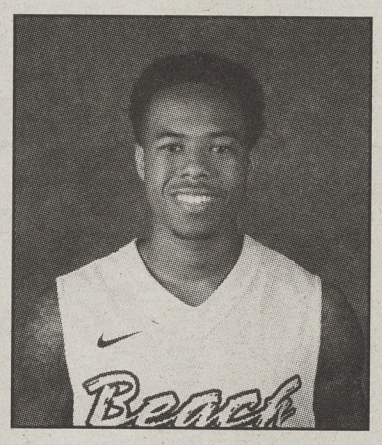
Since the loss of Levin, LBSU has turned things around with its next man up mentality which has led to the team winning three straight games to move the team to fourth place in the Big West behind UC Davis, UC Irvine and Cal State Northridge.

The team has gotten a lift in each game as the 49ers have redefined their identity, which players have been searching for all season.

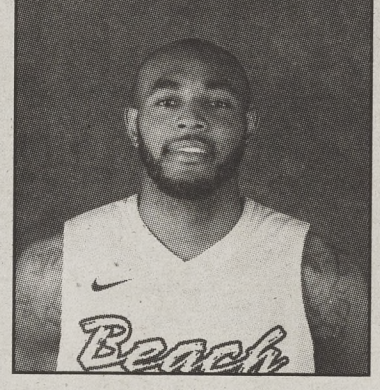
Whether it was sophomore forward Temidayo Yussuf's 25-point performance against UC Santa Barbara or junior forward Roschon Prince's 25-point, 11-rebound outing against Cal Poly, or junior guard Justin Bibbins' 26-point game against Cal state Fullerton — LBSU has handled the loss of Levin by #winning.

Now, only two games out of first place in the Big West and facing two of the three teams in front of them this week, the 49ers have a chance to be the team that was selected as the media's preseason favorite to win the conference.

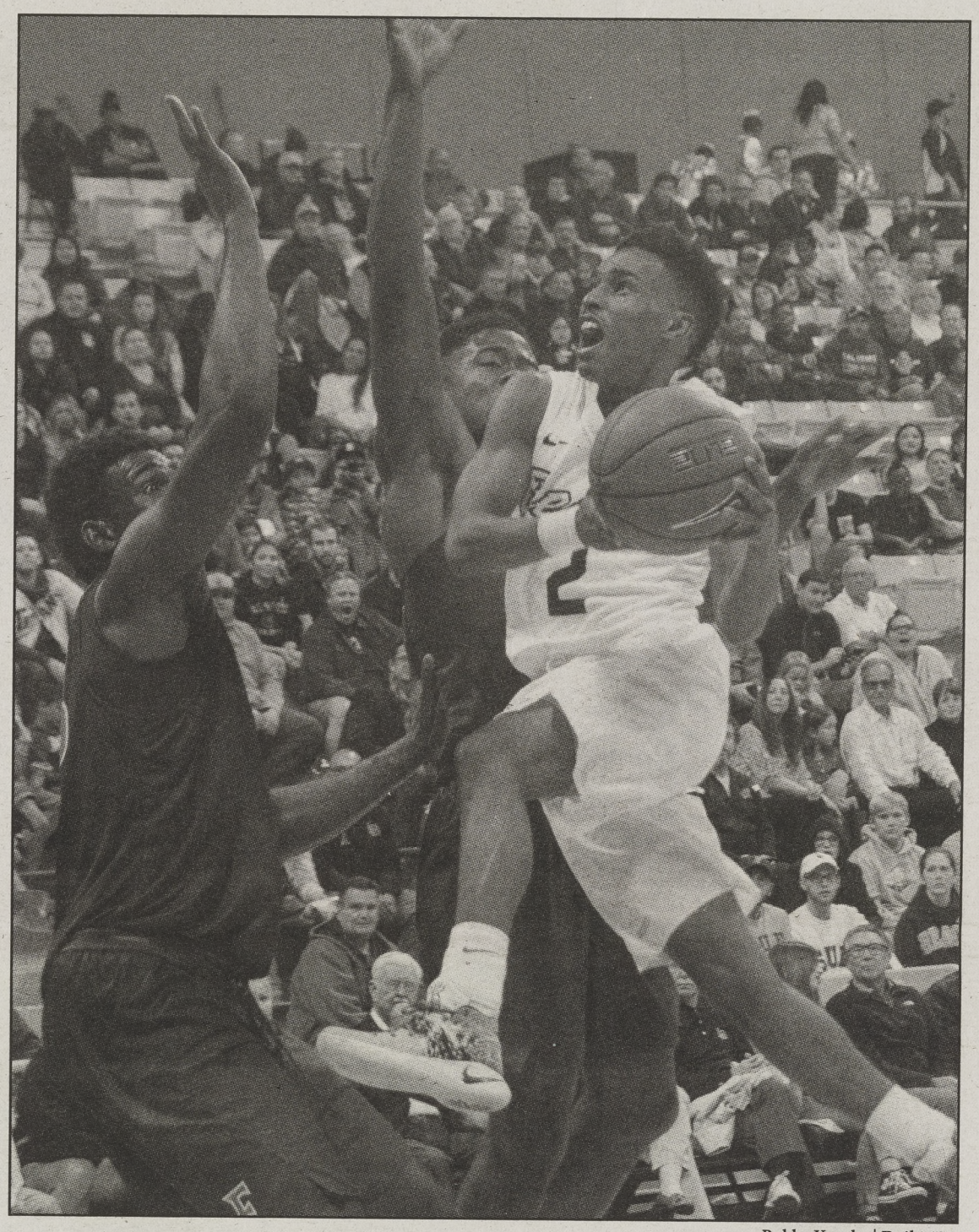
With Yussuf and Prince continuing to get better every game and LBSU getting stellar guard play from Bibbins, freshman Loren Jackson and junior Evan Payne — the 49ers now face the biggest question of their season, can they win on tLBSU's current win-streak will be put to the test when it travels to CSUN to take on the Matadors Wednesday at 7 p.m. which will be televised on ESPN 3.



JUSTIN BIBBINS
GUARD



ROSCHON PRINCE
FORWARD



Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er
Cal State Fullerton defense tries to stop freshman guard Loren Jackson from breaking through to the basket during Thursday's game.

MEN'S BASKETBALL 2017 SCHEDULE

DATE	MATCH	LOCATION	TIME
02/01	CSUN	Northridge	7 p.m.
02/04	UC Irvine	Walter Pyramid	TBA
02/09	UCR	Riverside	7 p.m.
02/11	CSUF	Fullerton	7 p.m.
02/16	UC Davis	Walter Pyramid	7 p.m.
02/18	UCSB	Santa Barbara	4 p.m.
02/23	Cal Poly	Walter Pryamid	7 p.m.
02/25	UC Davis	Davis	7 p.m.
03/04	Hawai'i	Walter Pyramid	3 p.m.

2017 STANDINGS | MEN'S BASKETBALL

	BIG WEST GAMES		ALL GAMES	
	W	L	W	L
UC Davis	5	1	13	8
UC Irvine	6	2	13	11
CSUN	5	3	9	12
Long Beach State	4	3	9	14
UC Riverside	4	3	6	12
Cal State Fullerton	3	4	9	11
Hawai'i	3	4	9	11
Cal Poly	1	6	6	15
Uc Santa Barbara	1	6	3	16